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4. Acrimonious; bitter of mind.
Good father cardinal, cry thou, amen,
To my keen curses. *Shaksp. King John.*
I have known some of these absent officers as keen against
Ireland, as if they had never been indebted to her. *Swift.*
To KEEN. *v. a.* [from the adjective.] To sharpen. An un-
authorised word.
Nor when cold Winter *keens* the brightening flood,
Would I weak shivering linger on the brink. *Thomson.*
KEENLY. *adj.* [from *keen*.] Sharply; vehemently; eagerly;
bitterly.
KEENNESS. *n. f.* [from *keen*.]
1. Sharpness; edge.
No, not the hangman's ax bears half the *keenness*.
Of thy sharp envy. *Shaksp. Merchant of Venice.*
2. Rigor of weather; piercing cold.
3. Asperity; bitterness of mind.
That they might keep up the *keenness* against the court, till
the coming together of both houses, his lordship furnished
them with informations, which might be written to the
king's disadvantage. *Clarendon.*
The sting of every reproachful speech is the truth of it;
and to be conscious is that which gives an edge, and *keenness*
to the invective. *South's Sermons.*
4. Eagerness; vehemence.
To KEEP. *v. a.* [cepan, Saxon; *kepen*, old Dutch.]
1. To retain; not to lose.
I kept the field with the death of some, and flight of others.
Sidney, b. ii.
We have examples in the primitive church of such as by
fear being compelled to sacrifice to strange gods repented,
and kept till the office of preaching the gospel. *Whitgift.*
Keep in memory what I preached unto you. *1 Cor. xv. 2.*
This charge I keep till my appointed day
Of rend'ring up. *Milton.*
His loyalty he kept, his love, his zeal. *Milton.*
You have lost a child; but you have kept one child, and
are likely to do so long. *Temple's Miscel.*
If we would weigh, and keep in our minds, what we are
considering, that would instruct us when we should, or should
not, branch into distinctions. *Locke.*
2. To have in custody.
The crown of Stephanus, first king of Hungary, was al-
ways kept in the castle of Vicegrade. *Knolles.*
She kept the fatal key. *Milton.*
3. To preserve; not to let go.
These men of war that could keep rank, came with a per-
fect heart to Hebron. *Chron. xii. 38.*
The Lord God merciful and gracious, keeping mercy for
thousands, forgiving iniquity. *Exod. xxxiv. 7.*
I spared it greatly, and have kept me a grape of the cluster,
and a plant of a great people. *2 Esdr. ix. 21.*
4. To preserve in a state of security.
We passed by where the duke keeps his gallees. *Addison.*
5. To protect; to guard.
Behold I am with thee to keep thee. *Gen. xxviii.*
6. To guard from flight.
Paul dwelt with a foldier that kept him. *Acts xxviii. 16.*
7. To detain.
But what's the cause that keeps you here with me?
—That I may know what keeps me here with you. *Dryden.*
8. To hold for another.
A man delivers money or stuff to keep. *Exod. xxii. 7.*
Reserv'd from night, and kept for thee in store. *Milton.*
9. To reserve; to conceal.
Some are so close and reserved, as they will not shew their
wares but by a dark light; and seem always to keep back
somewhat. *Bacon's Essays, No. 27.*
10. To tend.
God put him in the garden of Eden to keep it. *Gen. ii. 15.*
While in her girlish age she kept sheep on the moor, it
chanced that a merchant saw and liked her. *Carew.*
Count it thine
To till and keep, and of the fruit to eat. *Milton.*
11. To preserve in the same tenour or state.
To know the true state, I will keep this order. *Bacon.*
Take this at least, this last advice my son,
Keep a stiff rein, and move but gently on:
The couriers of themselves will run too fast,
Your art must be to moderate their haste. *Addison's Ovid.*
12. To regard; to attend.
While the stars and course of heav'n I keep,
My weary'd eyes were seiz'd with fatal sleep. *Dryden.*
If that idea be steadily kept to, the distinction will easily
be conceived. *Locke.*
13. To not suffer to fail.
My mercy will I keep for him for ever. *Psal. lxxxix.*
Shall truth fail to keep her word? *Milton.*
14. To hold in any state.
Ingenuous shame, and the apprehensions of displeasure,

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- are the only true restraints; these alone ought to hold the
reins, and keep the child in order. *Locke on Education.*
Men are guilty of many faults in the exercise of this fa-
culty of the mind, which keep them in ignorance. *Locke.*
Happy souls! who keep such a sacred dominion over their
inferior and animal powers, that the sensitive tumults never
rise to disturb the superior and better operations of the rea-
soning mind. *Watts's Improvement of the Mind.*
15. To retain by some degree of force in any place or state.
Plexirtus, said he, this wickedness is found by thee; no
good deeds of mine have been able to keep it down in thee.
Sidney, b. ii.
It is hardly to be thought that any governor should so much
malign his successor, as to suffer an evil to grow up which he
might timely have kept under; or perhaps nourish it with
coloured countenance of such sinister means. *Spenser.*
What old acquaintance! could not all this flesh
Keep in a little life? Poor Jack, farewell. *Shakspere.*
Venus took the guard of noble Hector's corse,
And kept the dogs off: night and day applying sovereign
force
Of rosy balms, that to the dogs were horrible in taste.
Chapman's Iliad.
The Chinese sail where they will; which sheweth that
their law of keeping out strangers is a law of pusillanimity
and fear. *Bacon's New Atlantis.*
And those that cannot live from him alunder,
Ungratefully shall strive to keep him under. *Milton.*
If any ask me what would satisfy,
To make life easy, thus I would reply:
As much as keeps out hunger, thirst, and cold. *Dryden.*
Matters, recommended by our passions, take possession
of our minds, and will not be kept out. *Locke.*
Prohibited commodities should be kept out, and useless
ones impoverish us by being brought in. *Locke.*
An officer with one of these unbecoming qualities, is look-
ed upon as a proper person to keep off impertinence and soli-
citation from his superior. *Addison's Spectator.*
And if two boots keep out the weather,
What need you have two hides of leather. *Prior.*
We have it in our power to keep in our breaths, and to
suspend the efficacy of this natural function. *Cheyne.*
16. To continue any state or action.
The house of Ahaziah had no power to keep still the king-
dom. *2 Chron. xxii. 9.*
Men gave ear, waited, and kept silence at my counsel.
Job xxix. 21.
Auria made no stay, but still kept on his course, and with
a fair gale came directly towards Carone. *Knolles.*
It was then such a calm, that the ships were not able to
keep way with the gallees. *Knolles's Hist. of the Turks.*
The moon that distance keeps till night.
An heap of ants on a hillock will more easily be kept to an
uniformity in motion than these. *Clarendon's Sup.*
He dy'd in fight:
Fought next my person; as in contest fought:
Kept pace for pace, and blow for blow. *Dryden.*
He, being come to the estate, keeps on a very busy fami-
ly; the markets are weekly frequented, and the commodi-
ties of his farm carried out and sold. *Locke.*
Invading foes, without resistance,
With ease I make to keep their distance. *Swift.*
17. To observe any time.
My son, keep the flower of thine age sound. *Ecclus. xxvi.*
18. To practise; to use habitually.
I rule the family very ill, and keep bad hours. *Pope.*
19. To copy carefully.
Her servants eyes were fix'd upon her face,
And as she mov'd or turn'd, her motions view'd.
Her measures kept, and step by step pursu'd. *Dryden.*
20. To observe any time.
This shall be for a memorial; and you shall keep it
a feast to the Lord. *Exod. xii. 14.*
That day was not in silence holy kept. *Milton.*
21. To observe; not to violate.
It cannot be,
The king should keep his word in loving us;
He will suspect us still, and find a time
To punish this offence in other faults. *Shakspere.*
Sworn for three years term to live with me,
My fellow scholars; and to keep those statutes
That are recorded in this schedule here. *Shakspere.*
Lord God, there is none like thee: who keepst covenant
and mercy with thy servants. *1 Kings viii. 23.*
Lord God of Israel, keep with thy servant that thou prom-
isest him. *1 Kings viii. 25.*
Obey and keep his great command.
His promise Palamon accepts; but pray'd
To keep it better than the first he made. *Dryden.*
My debtors do not keep their day,
Deny their hands and then refuse to pay. *Dryden's Jester.*
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- My wishes are, *Dryden.*
That Ptolemy may keep his royal word.
22. To maintain; to support with necessities of life.
Much more affliction than already felt
They cannot well impose, nor I sustain,
If they intend advantage of my labours,
The work of many hands, which earns my keeping. *Milt.*
23. To have in the house.
Base tyke, call'st thou me host? I scorn the term; nor
shall my Nell keep lodgers. *Shakspere's Henry V.*
24. Not to intermit.
Keep a sure watch over a shameless daughter, lest she make
thee a laughing-stock to thine enemies, and a bye-word in
the city. *Ecclus. xli. 11.*
Not keeping strictest watch as she was warn'd. *Milton.*
25. To maintain; to hold.
They were honourably brought to London, where every
one of them kept house by himself. *Hayward.*
Twelve Spartan virgins, noble, young, and fair,
To the pompous palace did resort,
Where Menelaus kept his royal court. *Dryden.*
26. To remain in; not to leave a place.
I pry thee, tell me, doth he keep his bed. *Shakspere.*
27. Not to reveal; not to betray.
A fool cannot keep counsel. *Ecclus. viii. 17.*
Great are thy virtues, though kept from man. *Milton.*
If he were wise, he would keep all this to himself. *Tillot.*
28. To refrain; to withhold.
If any rebel or vain spirit of mine
Did, with the least affection of a welcome,
Give entertainment to the might of it;
Let heav'n for ever keep it from my head. *Shakspere.*
Some obscure passages in the inspir'd volume keep from the
knowledge of divine mysteries. *Boyle on Scripture.*
If the God of this world did not blind their eyes, it would
be impossible, so long as men love themselves, to keep them
from being religious. *Tillotson's Sermons.*
There is no virtue children should be excited to, nor fault
they should be kept from, which they may not be convinced
of by reasons. *Locke on Education.*
If a child be constantly kept from drinking cold liquor whilst
he is hot, the custom of forbearing will preferve him. *Locke.*
By this they may keep them from little faults. *Locke.*
29. To deprive from any place.
Ill fend'd for heav'n to keep out such a foe. *Milton.*
30. To keep back. To reserve; to withhold.
Whatever the Lord shall answer, I will declare: I will
keep nothing back from you. *Jer. xlii. 4.*
31. To keep back. To withhold; to refrain.
Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins. *Psal. xix.*
32. To keep company. To frequent any one; to accompany.
Heav'n doth know, so shall the world perceive,
That I have turn'd away my former self,
So will I those that kept me company. *Shaksp. Henry IV.*
Why should he call her whore? Who keeps her com-
pany?
What place? what time?
What mean'st thou, bride! this company to keep?
To sit up, till thou fain wouldst sleep?
Neither will I wretched thee
In death forsake, but keep thee company. *Dryden.*
33. To keep company with. To have familiar intercourse.
A virtuous woman is obliged not only to avoid immodesty,
but the appearance of it; and she could not approve of a
young woman keeping company with men, without the permis-
sion of father or mother. *Brown's Notes on the Odyssey.*
34. To keep in. To conceal; not to tell.
I perceive in you so excellent a touch of modesty, that you
will not extort from me what I am willing to keep in. *Shak.*
Syphax, your zeal becomes importunate:
I've hitherto permitted it to rave,
And talk at large; but learn to keep it in,
Lest it should take more freedom than I'll give it. *Addison.*
35. To keep in. To restrain; to curb.
If thy daughter be shameless, keep her in straightly, lest
she abuse herself through over-much liberty. *Ecclus. xxvii. 13.*
It will teach them to keep in, and so master their inclina-
tions. *Locke on Education.*
36. To keep off. To bear to distance; not to admit.
37. To keep off. To hinder.
A superficial reading, accompanied with the common opi-
nion of his invincible obscurity, has kept off some from seek-
ing in him the coherence of his discourse. *Locke.*
38. To keep up. To maintain without abatement.
Land kept up its price, and fold for more years purchase
than corresponded to the interest of money. *Locke.*
This restraint of their tongues will keep up in them the re-
spect and reverence due to their parents. *Locke.*
Albano keeps up its credit till for wine. *Addison.*
This dangerous dissension among us we keep up and cherish
with much pains. *Addison's Freeholder, No. 34.*
The ancients were careful to coin money in due weight

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- and fineness, and keep it up to the standard. *Arbutnot.*
39. To KEEP up. To continue; to hinder from ceasing.
You have enough to keep you alive, and to keep up and
improve your hopes of heaven. *Taylor's holy living.*
In joy, that which keeps up the action is the desire to con-
tinue it. *Locke.*
Young heirs, from their own reflecting upon the estates
they are born to, are of no use but to keep up their families,
and transmit their lands and houses in a line to posterity.
Addison's Spect. No. 123.
During his studies and travels he kept up a punctual corre-
spondence with Eudoxus. *Addison.*
40. To KEEP under. To oppress; to subdue.
O happy mixture! whereby things contrary do so qualify
and correct the one the danger of the other's excess, that
neither boldness can make us presume, as long as we are
kept under with the sense of our own wretchedness; nor,
while we trust in the mercy of God through Christ Jesus,
fear be able to tyrannize over us. *Hooker, b. v.*
Truth may be smothered a long time, and kept under by
violence; but it will break out at last. *Stillington.*
To live like those that have their hope in another life, im-
plies, that we keep under our appetites, and do not let them
loose into the enjoyments of sense. *Aiturbury's Sermons.*
To KEEP, *v. n.*
1. To remain by some labour or effort in a certain state.
With all our force we kept aloof to sea,
And gain'd the island where our vessels lay. *Pope's Ody.*
A man that cannot fence will keep out of bullies and game-
sters company. *Locke on Education.*
2. To continue in any place or state; to stay.
She would give her a lesson for walking so late, that should
make her keep within doors for one fortnight. *Sidney.*
What! keep a week away? seven days and nights?
Eighty-four hours? and lovers absent hours.
Oh weary reckoning! *Shakspere's Othello.*
I think, it is our way,
If we will keep in favour with the king,
To be her men, and wear her livery. *Shaksp. Rich. III.*
Thou shalt keep fast by my young men, until they have
ended. *Ruth ii. 21.*
The necessity of keeping well with the maritime powers,
will persuade them to follow our measures.
On my better hand Ascanius hung,
And with unequal paces tript along:
Creusa kept behind. *Dryden's Aeneis.*
The goddess born in secret pin'd;
Nor visited the camp, nor in the council join'd;
But keeping close, his gnawing heart he fed
With hopes of vengeance. *Dryden's Homer.*
And while it keeps there, it keeps within our author's limi-
tation. *Locke.*
There are cases in which a man must guard, if he intends
to keep fair with the world, and turn the penny. *Collier.*
The endeavours Achilles used to meet with Hector, the
contrary endeavours of the Trojan to keep out of reach are
the intrigue. *Pope's View of Epick Poetry.*
3. To remain unhurt; to last.
Disdain me not, although I be not fair:
Doth beauty keep which never fun can burn,
Nor storms do turn? *Sidney, b. i.*
Grapes will keep in a vessel half full of wine, so that the
grapes touch not the wine. *Bacon's Nat. Hist.*
If the malt be not thoroughly dried, the ale it makes will
not keep. *Mortimer's Husbandry.*
4. To dwell; to live constantly.
A breath thou art,
Servile to all the fky influences,
That do this habitation, where thou keepst,
Hourly afflict. *Shaksp. Measure for Measure.*
Knock at the study, where, they say, he keeps,
To ruminate strange plots of dire revenge. *Shakspere.*
5. To adhere strictly.
Did they keep to one constant dress they would sometimes
be in fashion, which they never are. *Addison's Spect.*
It is so whilst we keep to our rule; but when we forsake
that, we go astray. *Baker's Reflections on Learning.*
6. To KEEP on. To go forward.
So cheerfully he took the doom;
Nor shrunk, nor slept from death,
But, with unalter'd pace, kept on. *Dryden.*
7. To KEEP up. To continue undiminished.
He grew sick of a consumption; yet he still kept up, that
he might free his country. *Dryden's Life of Cleomenes.*
8. The general idea of this word is care, continuance, or du-
ration.
KEEP, *n. f.* [from the verb.]
1. Custody; guard.
Pan, thou god of shepherds all,
Which of our lambskins takest keep;
And when our flocks into mischance doth fall,
Doe'st save from mischief the unwary sheep. *Spenser's*
Within